

THE YOUNG WORKER

Official Organ of the Young Workers League of America

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No. 4

Anti-Child Labor Amendments Up For Consideration in Congress As Child Slavery Increases

By MAX SHACHTMAN

Among the numerous resolutions which have been introduced in both houses of the Congress, the joint resolution by senator Shortridge of California which proposes an amendment to the constitution of the United States is the most typical. The Shortridge resolution calls for an amendment to the constitution which when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the states shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the constitution. The resolution incorporates the following article: "The congress shall have power, concurrent with that of the several states, to limit or prohibit the labor of persons under the age of eighteen years."

After having gone thru two readings in the senate it was referred to the senate judiciary committee.

The fate of the two previous child labor regulations and prohibition laws which were passed by congress and signed by the president is well-known. The superannuated body of fossils and faithful funkies of capitalism known as the Supreme Court ruled that the laws were unconstitutional and held that the lives of the children of the workers of this country did not weigh an ounce in comparison with the deprivation of profits the law would entail to the exploiters of working children's flesh and bone.

Where does the Young Workers League of America stand on this question?

We know of the indescribable miseries of the exploited children of this country, unequalled in any other part of the world with the possible exception of China. In every part of the country little children, barely out of their teens, slave away so that the profits of capital may be greater and acquired without the troubles which adult and unionized labor usually gives to the bloated swine. Knowing as we do that the capitalists of this country, its real rulers, do not yield an inch where their profits are concerned, we are certain that no remedial measures for the child slaves will be adopted without a ferocious struggle against them by those who are interested in maintaining things as they are. After the Shortridge amendment is passed in the Senate and the House of Representatives and receives the president's signature, it will have to have the majority vote of 36 of the 48 state legislatures. And it has been computed that on this basis, approximately one-fifteenth of the population

League Secretary and 37 Others Dead in Johnston City Mine Explosion

By BARNEY MASS.

(Special to the "Young Worker") JOHNSTON CITY, Ill.—Victor Lakotich, secretary of the Johnston City, Ill., branch of the Young Workers League, was among the 38 miners killed in the explosion in the Crerar-Cinch Coal Company mine here today. Ten minutes after the superintendent came up from the mine and announced that everything was safe, the explosion occurred. Rumor is rife among the miners that the company has been neglecting the regulation precautions against gas flooding the mines and resulting in the horrors of a mine explosion. The county coroner and Martin Bolt, state director of mines, are already busy on an investigation. This is the second terrible mine disaster in two days—one at Shankton, Pa., which snuffed out the lives of 49 oilers having come within 24 hours of the Johnston City explosion.

The Young Workers League branch here is holding a special memorial meeting.

CHICAGO.—The National Executive Committee of the Young Workers League of America has sent the following message of condolence to the Johnston City, Ill., branch on the death of its secretary:

"The sad news of our comrade Lakotich's death has just reached us and we wish to express our deepest sorrow. His death is but another of the innumerable red spots in the bloody history of capitalism's mad rush for profits. As a rank and file worker, slaving in the mines at day and working for the sacred cause at night, comrade Lakotich deserves the greatest commendation that we can give to his martyrdom. In honor of his death at the hands of capitalism we can do nothing else but pledge our unfailing efforts to the Cause whose coming shall forever abolish the conditions of capitalism which take their daily toll of blood of the working class.

"Honor to the death of our comrade Victor Lakotich!"

"On with the work for the emancipation of the working class from the horrors and miseries of capitalism!"

"THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
"Martin Abern, Ex. Sec'y.

of the United States, distributed among 13 of the smallest states, can kill the ratification of any amendment, even if it is passed in the Congress.

The amendment to give the suffrage to women, a proposition which did not attack the property interests of the rulers of this country anywhere near to the degree in which the child labor amendment does, took forty-two years to become a part of the constitution. The first amendment to give women the suffrage was introduced by Senator A. A. Sargent on January 10, 1878 and the final state to ratify it, after it had been worn almost to death in the congress, was Kentucky, on January 7, 1920.

A clinching fact in our argument is the history of amendments to the constitution. Of over 2000 which have been proposed to the constitution, only 19 have thus far been adopted. The first 12 were really part of the constitution, the next three were adopted only by force of circumstances—after the Civil War—and since then not a single amendment of a fundamental nature has been adopted.

The same fate awaits the Shortridge amendment and the others which have been introduced! The southern states will kill it if the congress lets it pass thru—quite an improbability, not to say impossibility.

The Young Workers League of America, together with all other class-conscious working class elements in this country, is sick and fed up on investigations by governmental committees and uplift agencies, of fawning pleases by labor to the government's soft heart. We have had about enough.

We call upon the working class of this country to join us in an effective program for the remedying of this terrible state of affairs.

We demand:

1. The increase of wages of child laborers to 50 per cent. of the adult workers'.

2. Limitation to a maximum of 3 hours per working day for children.

3. Punishment by imprisonment of condign punishment of property of child exploiters.

4. Free accommodations of undernourished and sick working class children in recreation and vacation homes, etc., the expenses to be paid by a direct tax on propertied interests.

These are our immediate demands and do not include our ultimate demands which we know cannot be realized so long as capitalism still exists.

We ask that labor go along with us on these demands in the interests of the child of the worker and in their own direct interests. These demands can be accomplished by a determined stand on the industrial field, in labor's struggle with capital, and by the organization of a workers and farmers political party which shall incorporate these demands in its platform, and which shall pledge its elected representatives to stand for and fight for these elementary demands in the legislative bodies of the country.

The time for action has long been here. It is now time to act! We cannot let the lives of working children wait on investigation and constitutional amendments which will be passed from hand to hand with cynical indifference.

The workers of this country must take this matter out of the hands of politicians and see to it that ACTION is taken for once!

(For additional information on the growth of child labor and our demands, see article in this issue by John Williamson.)

4,123 Youngsters Desert U. S. Navy, Frisco District During Past Five Months

(Special to "The Young Worker") SAN FRANCISCO.—According to figures issued by the 12th district naval headquarters there have been 4123 desertions from the navy in the past five months. Of these, 1978 are still at large.

The list of reasons given by officers in explaining the desertions contains, among others, "misrepresentation of navy life and insufficient cruising," showing that something more alluring than "Join the Navy and See the World" is necessary for inveigling the young workers of this country to be trained in the art of killing off their fellow workers in other countries as soon as another war for profits is declared.

Life in the navy ain't what it is cracked up to be, as can be seen from these figures, which are compiled only from one district. Wait until we hear from the others!

No Delay in May 30th Convention, Farmer-Labor Leaders Declare

CHICAGO.—Farmer and labor political opinion all over the country is decided against any postponement of the May 30th convention of all progressive labor and farmer organizations to be held in St. Paul at the call of the Farmer-Labor Conference of Minnesota, the Federated Farmer-Labor Party, the Committee of 48, and state labor parties of Montana, South Dakota and elsewhere. The proposal for postponement was first voiced by William Mahoney of Minneapolis, one of the leading spirits in the call for the conference which is to initiate a huge nationwide party of the working people of the country, after a conference held by him with political leaders in Washington.

Any attempt at postponement of the convention, which has aroused great enthusiasm everywhere and which has the endorsement of influential farmer and labor bodies, was immediately opposed strongly by the Workers Party of America which is leading the fight for a labor country and has announced its intention to participate in the St. Paul convention.

A meeting of the Working People's Non-Partisan Political League of Hennepin County (Minneapolis and environs) went on record by an overwhelming majority against any change in the St. Paul conference from the date originally set.

Dilatory action was also protested against by the Denver conference of the Farmer-Labor Party of the United States, attended by organizations from western and southwestern states. The Denver conclave also went on record unanimously as being opposed to the exclusion of any radical working-class group from the May 30th conference, as was proposed by certain disgruntled elements in the organization. A clean-cut resolution on the United Front of workers and farmers on the political field was adopted.

In Minneapolis, the home of the proposed conference, which contains many leading figures, practically every leader of the labor movement there declared emphatically against any postponement of the national conference. R. D. Cramer, editor of the official organ of the Minneapolis Trades and Labor Assembly, J. G. Scott, labor member of the board of aldermen, R. S. Wiggin, assistant country attorney, Dan Stevens, secretary of the central labor body, C. A. Hathaway, business representative of the Machinists' District Council and numerous others made unequivocal statements against the proposed postponement, declaring that any such attempt was a serious mistake and amounted to permitting middle-class politicians of the Republican and Democratic parties to dictate to the class forces for a labor party. "It would be the greatest folly," said C. A. Hathaway, "for the rank and file class movement to gamble its whole future on the prospective future action of political adventurers in the ranks of the capitalist parties. This is precisely what the postponement means."

Joseph Manley, secretary of the Federated Farmer-Labor party, in a statement for that organization, said, "The Federated Farmer-Labor Party believes that the action of the Denver conference constitutes an emphatic repudiation of middle-class leadership and indicates that the workers and farmers political party is ready and able to stand on its own feet."

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Boy Scout Campaign Failing; Labor Must Act Against Anti-Union Gang

By HARRY GANNES

Just now a campaign is in progress over the entire country to recruit boys into the scout movement and to collect money for the development and functioning of that organization.

Great as is the effort put behind the Boy Scouts of America, but a small number have been fooled into joining. In the city of Chicago with its three to four hundred thousand school children, only 10,000 boys are counted in the ranks. Even this figure can be taken as an exaggeration; for the leaders of the boy scout movement, the they may preach "honesty" to the kids, are no George Washington themselves. New York has a poor scout record. Other big cities, also, show a falling-off in the enthusiasm for scout work.

This is significant. With all the government forces behind the boy scout movement (Congress has even chartered the thing; with the majority of churches giving moral and "spiritual" as well as financial support to this kindergarten army, success has not smiled on the B. S. A.

Samuel Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, joined with former President Harding in commanding the boy scout movement about a year ago when a nation-wide campaign was started. In matters of creating future anti-labor forces Gompers can combine with those elements who later stab labor in the back (remember the Doughtery injunction), while when it comes to organizing the youth in the trade unions, this short, fat, toddling monkey-form individual hides himself, and like a hypocritical priest, weeps torrents at the mention of child labor, but does not invoke one ounce of labor's power to send this dastardly practice.

The American Legion has seen fit to take a hand in the scout movement. In fact, in the United States, outside of the Young Workers League of America, and the Workers Party.

there is a unanimity among social forces in the matter of building up the boy scout movement.

The boy scouts are a class instrument. Behind all the sham that is built up around the Boy Scouts of America, there is a definite anti-working class element in charge of the movement. The boys are taught to obey their masters. This is designed to last throughout their life. They are taught to become meek wage slaves, a detrimental training so far as the union membership is concerned. If that were all, it would not be so bad. But the worst is, the boys are taught to become the active, militant elements in the fight of the bosses against the workers.

Those misguided labor leaders who sanction the boy scouts might not have memory enough to remember that in Massachusetts during the war, the boy and girl scouts (together with the Y. M. C. A.) were used to heat down the wages of the mill workers. Class conscious workers do not forget any injury to the working class. The role of the boy scouts in the war will not be forgotten by those

(Continued on page 2)

Nicolai Lenin, Leader of International Revolution, Is Dead as Workers Mourn

Young Workers League Pledges Itself to Go On With Lenin's Work

CHICAGO.—On the occasion of the death of Nicolai Lenin, the Young Workers League of America sent the following cablegram: Communist Party of Russia, Moscow, Russia.

We will carry on comrade Lenin's revolutionary work.

The Young Workers League of America, Martin Abern, Exec. Sec'y

The Working Class of the World Stands Bowed in Grief Before the Grave of the Leader of Workers' Revolution

Nicolai Lenin, for seven years premier of the first working class republic in the world, Soviet Russia, and leader of the Communist International, lies dead in Moscow.

Before his body hundreds of thousands of workers and peasants of Russia pass with mournful hearts for their beloved leader. All over the world the workers and peasants feel the great calamity that has befallen them by the loss of their leader. Wherever a proletarian heart beats, it beats with sorrow for Nicolai Lenin.

Vladimir Ilyitch Ulianov (Lenin's real name), was born in Simbirsk, April 10, 1870, the son of a school master of noble blood. He attended all the elementary schools and at a very

Second International, Karl Kautsky, and proved him to be nothing else than a perverted and renegade to the principles of revolutionary Marxism, which he professed, "The Infantile Sickness of Left Communism," which pointed out the road for the Communist International to take in the struggle against the semi-anarchists and syndicalists who thought that the program of the Communist International and the teachings of Lenin were not sufficiently radical for them.

Besides these polemical brochures, Lenin had previously written numerous important works on economics, history and philosophy, which obtained for him a reputation as a keen thinker and analyst and one of the foremost students of Marx in the world.

When the Kerensky revolution broke out in Russia in 1917, Lenin hurried to his native land with many of the other leaders of the Bolsheviks, and began to prepare for the overthrow of the bourgeois government of Kerensky and for the assumption of power by the workers. This was accomplished on November 7, 1917, when the Bolsheviks took over the power, instituted the dictatorship of the proletariat and proclaimed the Soviet Republic.

Lenin was made premier of Russia.

In every situation that Russia faced during its stormy career it was found that Lenin's judgment was always the soundest and wisest. On the question of the Brest-Litovsk treaty, on the institution of the New Economic Policy it was Lenin's program that carried the day for the Russian workers.

In 1917, and again in 1918, attempts at assassination were made against Lenin. The last attempt by Dora Kaplan, a social-revolutionary terrorist, left him in a critical condition. In the past year his condition became worse, and in spite of occasional recuperations, he finally succumbed on the evening of January 22, 1924, not quite 54 years old.

The whole nation is in mourning and huge demonstrations have been held all over the world in honor of the greatest leader of the working class revolution.

The Russian Soviet Republic will probably continue to be ruled for some time by the comrades Rykov, Kamenev and Stalin, who had been ruling the affairs of state during Lenin's illness. Stalin, who is minister of nationalities, is mentioned as the most probable successor to Lenin's position of premiership.

As a small mark of feeling towards "Ilyitch," the Petrograd Soviet has voted unanimously to change its name to Leningrad.

The working class of the world stands by the grave of Nicolai Lenin with bowed head, in grief at the terrible misfortune which has deprived it of its greatest teacher and leader.

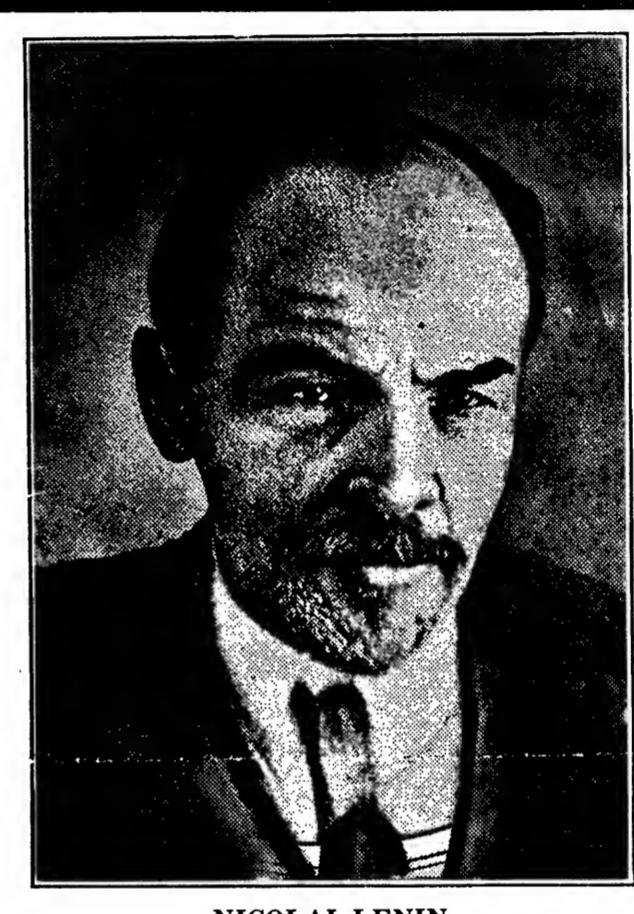
American Young Communists Greet German Red Youth

CHICAGO.—In a message sent to the Young Communist League of Germany, the Young Workers League of America, the communist youth organization of this country, greets the German youth and promises them full support in their struggle against reaction and fascism, and hails the news of the rise and progress of the communists in Germany in spite of the persecutions and oppression of the reactionary dictator, Hans von Seekt.

The Young Workers League, in its greeting, condemns the suppression of the Young Communist League and the Communist Party of Germany and pledges itself to unite with the progressive labor forces of this country, the Workers Party and the Trade Union Educational League in a combined effort to furnish relief to the starving German masses of workers, under the direction of the Friends of Soviet Russia and Workers' Germany.

The letter points out the reactionary character of the relief now being contemplated by various bourgeois organizations and by the Gompers relief committee, whose only purpose is to stave off a working class revolution in Germany.

"We, too, in America, will not cease the struggle until the victory of the working class in America is also achieved. The message ends.



NICOLAI LENIN

15,000 Child Slaves Used to Harvest for California Growers

(Special to "The Young Worker")

SAN FRANCISCO.—Revelations of the miserable conditions of more than 15,000 child slaves employed to harvest the 24 big crops of California were made here in a survey just completed by the state boards of education and health.

The children are taken from school early in the spring and slave away until late in the fall, most of them working with their parents whose wages do not suffice for the maintenance of the family. The harvesters work towards the south until they reach the cotton fields in the Imperial valley, toiling with all their strength, at miserably low wages and under the vilest conditions, conditions that rival those of the tiny mill workers of New England and the south.

Many of the children are little more than babies and during these migrations they are obliged to live with their parents in wagons or tents, overworking themselves and ruining their health permanently. It is estimated that over 75 per cent of them are permanently retarded to a sixth grade intelligence, bearing it with them to the grave because of the greedy feudal lords of California and their absolute indifference to the welfare of the workers and their children so long as they can squeeze more profits out of the blood and lives of the kiddies.

The state of California is notorious for its readiness to persecute any working class group whose intention it is to better the conditions of the working class. Not an inch does it move, however, towards protecting the lives and health of its future citizens who toil in the fields so that California may boast of its fruits and grains.

Working Class Education

By LOUIS BRAVERMAN

In order to be a militant young worker one must be equipped with a sound Marxian understanding. These statements were expressed by Comrade Lenin in an address to young communists in Moscow.

The fact that modern capitalism is divided into two classes, whose interests are not alike, is self-evident; and young workers must understand their function in the structure of society.

Karl Marx said that the ideas, morals and ethics of the ruling class are the ideas of the masses. The ruling class tries its utmost to propagate and popularize these slogans thru the church, press and schools. The secret of their supremacy lies in the ignorance of the great mass of people.

The capitalist class influences the working class youth in the same degree as the press and church fixes the heads of the adults. When the young worker comes to school ignorant of the things surrounding him, he is confronted with a teacher who reads to him from the text book about the great men of history who built up modern society; how these great men were born of poor people, educating themselves to such a height of social and economic rank, and she proposes that this can be achieved in a simple manner.

The secret key of happiness lies in the following statement: "Early to bed, and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise." The young worker puts this idea into his head, believes it, acts on it. He goes to bed at nine, rises with the alarm clock, works hard and saves all he can from his miserable wage. He may be healthy, he is getting wise, but is surprised to find that the promised wealth is not there.

The boss goes to sleep at midnight, rises at noon and—look at him!

Since he is disappointed in school or deprived of the "advantage" of schooling, he seeks consolation in the Gospel of Christ, expressed by potted and contented sky pilots. Blessed are the poor for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven! shouts the servant of Christ.

But the funniest thing about this is that while the poor slave's eyes are fixed on the skies, the boss fires him for not producing!

The press performs its function

perhaps more than any of the other agents. These degenerates and pen prostitutes do the dirty work of their masters such as interpreting every day events, such as strikes, trade union movement, and working class activities, from a master class point of view. They have a firm hold on the mind of the slave by feeding him on cheap novels and bed-time stories which are digested very easily in the weary mind of the modern worker, who, deprived of all sorts of pleasure, naturally seeks sensations and thrills by reading such trash.

These are the means employed to maintain the supremacy of the exploiters: The dominant thoughts and ideas of the ruling class and its state. But the working class youth is equipped with the proletarian method of looking at things and will nevertheless counteract these propagators of starvation and human enslavement, and show them up to the great mass of people in their true light.

The capitalist system was not born by accident, but developed from a system previous to it. Already working within the feudal form of society, the first signs of capitalism were seen. The Lutheran reformation in Germany was strategically used by rising capitalism.

Just as feudalism showed its first signs of decay, the rising capitalists, in order to gain the support of the proletariat which was of course not developed as it is today, issued such phrases as Liberty, Fraternity and Equality, which in the long run meant nothing but liberty, fraternity, and equality to those who owned property. When their time came, they broke the backbone of feudalism, as in the great French revolution.

From this we can learn how they came into existence. To make them disappear is the task to perform and we can accomplish that great task by education, organization and agitation!

Australians Give K. K. K. the Razz.

SYDNEY, N. S. W.—The first appearance of the Ku Klux Klan in Sydney—they call themselves the Anglo-Saxon Klan there—was met with boos and jeers from a huge gathering of people who came out to see the Knightgowned Klowns. The krazy Koo Koos kouldn't kwite convince the Australians of their necessity. America, take notice!

With The Leagues

Liebknecht Meetings Big Success

The mas demonstration in New York on International Liebknecht Day was certainly a success from every point of view. Over two thousand workers, young and old, filled the large Central Opera House where comrades Sam Darcy, Samuel Dun and Ben Gitlow addressed them on the significance of the day. Comrade Max Shachman, editor of the Young Worker also spoke.

Chicago and Los Angeles Hit It Up.

Chicago had a splendid meeting, in spite of the inclement weather, second only to New York. Comrades Bob Minor, Bill Foster, John Edwards, Max Bedacht and Peter Herd held their audience at the highest point of interest as they portrayed the various phases of Liebknecht Day and the situation in Germany today. A novel feature of the meeting was the presentation of several tableaus by the comrades, portraying Capitalism and its many agencies; their blinding effect upon the proletariat and finally the victory of Communism over all such obstacles. Singing and music by the League band topped the program.

Los Angeles had a meeting which was unparalleled in the history of the youth of that city. Over 750 workers came and listened to the YWL and WP speakers. The YWL has a very successful meeting was held.

been commended and taken considerable notice of by the Party comrades since their successful meeting, and it is expected that greater cooperation in all activities will be the result.

Gary and Easton.

Earl Browder spoke to a meeting at Gary, Ind., the well known steel town where the 12 hour day reigns supreme. From Easton, Pa., comes the report that a successful meeting was held with a member of the National Hungarian Propaganda Committee as the principal speaker. The local members feel proud of their success which undoubtedly will result in many new members joining the ranks.

Philadelphia filled the hall with a crowd of six hundred. Gitlow and a comrade recently arrived from Germany spoke. It is the best Liebknecht meeting ever held in the Quaker City.

Mining Territory Covered by Kaplan

In the steel center of the world Pittsburgh, an attendance of 250 was recorded. Comrade Kaplan spoke at great length on the German situation. The significance of the German shop councils was dealt with and their relation to our shop nuclei activity in this country. In Canonsburg and WP speakers. The YWL has a very successful meeting was held.

200 young miners attended. The Junior section gave a play "The School Struggle" which went across big and one member recited the International in a very dramatic style. Comrade Merrick also spoke at this meeting.

At Daisytown a small mining camp with a population of 2000, the meeting was a great success. The comrades worked hard and had an audience of 350. Comrade Helen Heinonen is very active in this vicinity and acted as chairman. Kaplan was very much impressed with the caliber of the workers in this vicinity. In Monessen, a twin town to Daisytown, the least successful meeting of the group was held. This was due primarily to the fact that the majority of the young workers are employed on the night shift of the Tin Rolling mill. This is the basic industry of the town and here we find existing the well known "Steel Corporation" conditions. Nevertheless the small audience showed much enthusiasm and Kaplan pointed out that such a meeting should not discourage the comrades as this was an international meeting and Monessen was only a very small part of a gigantic world.

Reports have not yet come in from all the branches and units and they will be contained in the next issue. We can safely say however, that this Liebknecht Day was the most successful to any yet held in this country.

Comrade Rebecca Sacherow, of Cleveland, spoke at Martins Ferry and Yoikville on International Liebknecht Day.

In and Around Cleveland.

The Cleveland territory was covered for a period of 11 days by comrade Martin Aborn, executive secretary of the League. Besides holding some fine Liebknecht Day meetings in Cleveland, Dillonvale, East Liverpool, and Youngstown, membership and committee meetings were held in most of these cities. A complete revision of the work of the leagues in particular can be expected to resume again its position in the forefront of our active leagues. Already its quota of Young Workers has been tripled and union work is increasing by rapid strides. The individual members are taking it upon themselves to begin real activity in every phase of our work and it is expected that in a short time Cleveland will have a half a dozen or more functioning shop and school units. The work being consolidated and the leagues that section are advancing with sure feet along a carefully chosen path.

The Dillonvale branch is going strong and there is now a junior branch in East Liverpool where a league branch may soon be counted upon. Youngstown, the heart of Ohio steel, has a steel-spined branch which is flexible enough to allow the League to enter into communist activities.

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DETROIT EXPECTS TO LEAD COUNTRY

Organization work in the Auto-City has gone ahead so fast that the last two months that the older League members threaten to be swamped by the new comers.

There are now five branches with a total membership of nearly a hundred and the applications are only beginning to come in.

Branch One, meeting in the famous House of Masses, has opened a permanent headquarters. It is equipped with a pool table, two book cases with books, library tables, reading lamps, boxing gloves and other athletic equipment.

The Detroit Y. W. L. basketball team, under the captainship of Bradford Wignat, are enrolled in the City Recreation Commission League and regular weekly games will follow. Complete uniforms have been furnished the players by the League. The emblem is made up of the letters Y. W. L. in a red star, which is in a red circle. The first girls basketball team is to be organized the week of Jan. 21st, and report will be made on their activity in the near future.

The Delray branch, will be taken under the supervision of the C. C. C. and will be strengthened by the addition of new material from the other circles. John Steigerwald of Branch 3 is expected to be placed in charge as manager.

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There are now five branches with a total membership of nearly a hundred and the applications are only beginning to come in.

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The Detroit Y. W. L. basketball team, under the captainship of Bradford Wignat, are enrolled in the City Recreation Commission League and regular weekly games will follow. Complete uniforms have been furnished the players by the League. The emblem is made up of the letters Y. W. L. in a red star, which is in a red circle. The first girls basketball team is to be organized the week of Jan. 21st, and report will be made on their activity in the near future.

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School Struggle Looms Big Chicago as Centre Point

By NAT KAPLAN

On October 1, 1923, Cook County officials of the state of Illinois decided to submit to the voters of the county, for the November 6th elections, a proposition calling for a tax levy which provided a total of approximately \$7,500,000 for a zoo for wild animals. The main argument presented by the zoo promoters was: "The wonderful educational advantages such a zoo would afford to the school children of Chicago and vicinity."

The county politicians did not mention that land speculators had already reaped a harvest of \$500,000 on vacant lot deals in the vicinity of the proposed zoo. It was estimated that if the proposed zoo went thru in the elections.

Schools for Children or Money for Monkeys.

The Chicago Teacher's Federation under the leadership of Miss Mary Abbe, its president, then stepped into the political arena. They declared instant warfare against the zoo proposition, favoring in its stead the proposition of raising the tax on property for the purpose of building new schools, thereby intending to curtail the shortage of about 75,000 seats and also the necessity of instituting the Detroit System (a sister to the Gary System) in Chicago's public schools.

At the time the Teacher's Federation voiced their opinion in the following manner: "... School buildings near their homes—not a zoo in the forest preserve—is the crying need of the thousands of school children of Chicago who, for lack of school buildings, are crowded into portables, basements, cloakrooms and other unfit substitutes for schoolrooms, or are attending school only half a day and spending the other half on the streets" (or in part time jobs in the factories or doing industrial home work.)

"The Teacher's Federation congratulates the voters of Chicago upon the opportunity which the board of education has given them to exercise their option to vote either to tax themselves for 20 years for a zoo, a total of \$7,500,000—enough to provide a seat for every lion in Africa in a fitting zoo—or to vote to tax themselves half of that amount now as a step towards providing a seat for every school child in a fitting school." Thus the Chicago teachers made this issue "a money for the children or money for the monkeys" fight.

Chicago Labor Against Monkeys.

The Chicago Federation of Labor took a hand in this scrap and wholeheartedly endorsed the stand taken by the Teacher's Federation. The Federation of Labor's decision read in part as follows: "Complete opposition to the expenditure of any public moneys for the establishment of a zoological park until such time as adequate school facilities have been furnished and adequate facilities for the health, safety and comfort of the citizens through the sufficient appropriations of money for the various city departments."

Even the officials of the board of education were forced to take a stand on this issue. C. M. Molterwell, president of the Chicago board of education sent an open letter to the board members in which he pointed out the following facts:

"I am advised that there are 52,242 half day pupils, 21,406 pupils in portables and 2,324 rotary pupils. While this makes a total of 75,972, I will not undertake to say that some of the half day pupils are not also in portables. Double schools are in operation where children have to go early and leave school at noon in order to make way for another set of children. You are also familiar with the fact that we have the relay system and the rotary system in certain schools... This seems to leave open only one way to meet the emergency, and this method is available only in case the people put the seal of their approval on the plan."

"Under the revenue section of the school law, passed in 1921 and amended in some particulars in 1923, the legislature gave the authority to the Board of Education to submit to a vote of the people of Chicago the proposition to permit the Board of Education to raise the school building tax for Chicago from three quarters of one per cent to a full one per cent of the assessed valuation of property."

Battle Won—Nothing Gained.

The battle clouds have now passed over. The November 6th county elections are gone and forgotten. Conditions within Chicago's public schools are still indescribably rotten. The Chicago Board of Education has again resumed its former role as the staunch opponent of the teachers and children. It is now endeavoring, through various maneuvers, to institute some form of the Gary System in Chicago's public schools.

The Sale of An Appetite

By PAUL LAFARGUE

Mad with pain and tired of life, he walked along the wharves; the water attracted him, he threw himself into the river. He was fished out and taken home, calmed by his cold bath. The next day a solidly built fellow brought him a letter from Sch—; it announced to him that from that time to the expiration of his contract of servitude, he would live under the surveillance of the bearer of the letter.

"My little fellow," said his keeper brutally, "I am your overseer; no more farces, understand! You no longer belong to yourself, you have sold your appetite and roped in forty-eight thousand planks, now you have to live and you have no right to kill yourself. If you were to take your life, what would become of our employer? The dear man, doesn't he need to digest what he eats? There's no other way. His belly must rest, so yours must work. I give you warning that the first time you try suicide again, I will box you up like a lunatic, those

Murders and Rape Inaugurate Terrorist Bulgarian Regime After Worker-Peasant Revolt

(Special Foreign Correspondence of "The Young Worker")

SOFIA.—The cold-blooded murder of Radoslav Noteff, young editor of the organ of the agrarian youth, is but one of the hundreds committed by the agents of the terrorist dictatorship of M. Zankoff, present premier of Bulgaria, who came into power last year by the assassination of the former premier Stambulinsky and the seizure of the government of Bulgaria with the aid of the combined forces of all the blackest elements in the country.

Facts of the most revolting nature have just been made public here, compiled by the foreign committee for the relief of the victims of the white terror in Bulgaria, composed of such well-known public men as Dr. W. Aranoff, G. Najdenoff and W. Dodoff. The real terror against the workers and peasants began after the uprising of the workers and peasants caused by the sudden arrest of more than 2000 communists and the closing down of all offices a few months ago.

At Ferdinand, a city of 6000, 150 prisoners were massacred and the wounded in the hospital were also slaughtered. At Beli-Mel, a nearby city, 33 young men were shot; and at Gaganitsa, 42 young men were murdered. The director of the college at Borovyan, Costa Petroff was tied to a speeding automobile until his corpse was unrecognizable. After being forced to watch helplessly the rape of his wife, the communist deputy, Tzitsoff, was assassinated in Bregovo. The well-known deputy Boris Sofiroff and the lawyers Kosta Petruoff and A. Matlachoff of Samokoff, were arrested and murdered after their ears, tongues and noses had been cut off.

The collection of documents of the relief committee contains no less than 64 headings of this kind. Some of the tortures used against the rebels are not paralleled except by the history of medieval times and the Spanish inquisition. In Slavovitsa, for instance, the school master was actually cut into little pieces. The aged Markovski, a respected political figure, was poisoned in the hospital of Shumen.

The atrocities have sickened even the socialist supporters of this vile government and they are demanding an "investigation" into the reprisals. Even the "Mir" (The World) writes, "Enough blood has been shed!" In the meantime, the wretched Zankoff continues with his murderous tactics.

It is well to note that the Zankoff government, in spite of its horrifying record of murder and rape, has found no fault in the eyes of the "civilized" governments of the world. The United States of America, which refuses any recognition at all to the Soviet Republic of Russia, maintains the best relations with that today the bloodiest rule on the face of the earth.

Little Tin Soldiers Faint When War Horrors Are Told

By MORRIS SCHINDLER
(Special to "The Young Worker")

PITTSBURGH, PA.—Two students fainted and many others felt sick under the belt at lecture in the University of Pittsburgh by a major in the Medical Corps to a group of students in the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

The major, being a frank sort of a fellow, made no attempt to spare his hearers any of the details of militarist life. He spoke in detail on the interesting and highly instructive subject of amputations of legs and arms; of men being blown to pieces and of the strangely small number of men who live to tell what it feels like to be stabbed in the guts by a bayonet.

While the uncritical major was speaking, one of our future tin soldier-heroes, a potential lieutenant, sank down into his seat in a dead faint. Before anyone had a chance to revive him, another brave buck faltered to the door and was just able to open it and get a breath of air, before he too lapsed into unconsciousness.

Both patients were taken to the front of the room, laid out on the officer's desk and as they recuperated he lectured to them on fainting and its cure.

It is said, besides many lunches and dinners having been missed by the lectured soldier boys, a great number of them are beginning to lose their enthusiasm for the noble art of war. (A letter in the socket is worth two in a war hospital.—ED.)

been drawn up; not a moment of the precious time he had sold was to be wasted. At the break of day he dragged him from his bed and obliged him to take long walks in the fields in order to prepare a morning appetite for the employer. In the afternoon, when filled up to the neck and stretched out on his back, he would have wished to remain motionless, but he was obliged to put himself on the march, in order to promote the current process of digestion and to prepare for his employer a new appetite, fresh and solid.

Emile had his caprices of revolt. "Don't kick, my little fellow," said his overseer at the first sign of insubordination, "you are dealing with too strong a party, you will get hurt. I have in my portfolio the doctor's certificates, the orders from police headquarters, the judge's permission, in fact the whole business for chucking you into Charenton! And there I will take you with a club, like the convicts."

A new life began. Like the artisans who work at home for their employer, Emile had up to that time lived with a shadow of liberty, but from that day, like the proletarian imprisoned in his employer's factory, he was to digest under the eye of an overseer. Overwhelmed by the monumental repasts of his employer, he had suspended his hygienic walks, prescribed by the contract: he passed his days and nights, extended at full length, moving only to perform the most necessary physiological functions. But his keeper was commissioned to see to the rigorous execution of the contract that had

overseer, submissive and mute like a whipped poodle-dog that dares not bark.

One morning the employer had devoured a breakfast more formidable than usual; he had gobbled down tureenfuls of fish soup and had gorged himself on dishes of cod, kilograms of meat and mountains of macaroni. Emile was crushed, he slept heavily for two hours; when his overseer put him on his feet for the regulation walk, this enormous mass of undigested food bore down like a dead weight on his stomach. He went along heavily by the side of his guard, dragging his legs painfully, with his head sadly inclined forward; at a turn of the road he dashed into a group of men and women talking and laughing. Sch— was strutting along in the center, the gayest of all, his coarse and noisy laugh sounded like a flourish of trumpets, while his fellow revelers were ready to faint from listening.

Emile, cast down, stupefied, dejected, lived without will power, always digesting, always ill, always trembling, he lay down, rose, walked, stopped, sat at the command of the

Gulf Coast Children Slave in Canneries 66 Hours at \$4 Wage

By CHARLES WITTER
(Special to "The Young Worker")

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Little children working from 60 to 72 hours a week at the most unbelievable wages in the oyster and shrimp canning communities of Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana, and living under the terrible conditions that always accompany the exploitation of the children of the workers of this country, forms another episode in the black history of child labor in America which is as awful as any yet pictured, according to an investigation recently made for the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor by Viola I. Paradise, special representative of the bureau.

Of the more than 1000 children in 9 communities alone who were studied, those from the ages of 10 to 15 showed a percentage of illiteracy which is 600 per cent. greater than the average for the same age group in the rest of the United States, which is 4 per cent. Twenty-five per cent. of these children are illiterates. Forty-one per cent. of them did not attend school and 106 children had never been inside a school house in their lives.

The cannery work is done under the most miserable conditions. The cold, damp, drafty sheds, where the work is done, are not only uncomfortable for the child workers, but are filled with physical risks other than bodily diseases. The oyster shells are sharp and the shuckers must use a knife, cutting their hands frequently. An acid in the head of the shrimp eats into the hands, making the flesh raw and sore. Many workers can work on shrimp only two days at a time and must then take a few days off to let their hands heal. The sharp "thorn," which protrudes from the head of the shrimp may run into the hand and break off, an accident which often results in serious infections. More than three-fifths of the families reported some injury caused by the acid and occasionally serious accidents.

The extremely low wages earned by the parents of the children was explained to be the cause for the widespread use of children as workers in the canneries. The earnings of two-thirds of the children averaged less than \$5 a week, and more than one-fourth earned less than \$2 a week. In answer to inquiries, it was found that 19 of the children had earned less than 50 cents in their best week; 47 had earned less than \$1; and 79 had earned less than \$2. Of 544 children under 15 years of age 334 were under 14, 1 was 4 years old and another 5 years old. The smaller children are often taken by their mothers to the factories so that "an eye may be kept on them," and there they are subjected to all sorts of physical dangers: being run over by an oyster car in the steam-diffused rooms, falling off the piers or being cut by shells.

The vast majority of the workers toil from between 9 and 15 hours a day, living in miserable shanties which afford no protection from the elements and which are conducive to the most serious diseases. Some of the families live in one room, most of them in the luxurious number of two rooms.

These conditions do not hold true, as in many other child slavery communities, of the foreign-born workers only, for in this particular section of the country, the overwhelming majority of the workers are native born.

Apalachicola is the only place which makes any pretense to union organization, containing four unions affiliated to the American Federation of Labor, but they are more or less under the control of the wishes of the bosses and are unable to improve their conditions very much.

No definite stand has ever been taken by any of them on the question of child labor, and the unspeakable wretched exploitation of the lives and health of these unfortunate kids is not likely to be stopped unless American labor as a national force decided to make a concerted and determined effort to put an end once and forever, to this horrid use of children for the coining of profits to the leeches who control the industries of the United States today.

Comrade Paul Kucinic writes from Barwickville, W. Va., that he is out to do his best for the youth movement and we can expect to have a leaven and junior section right in the heart of the reactionary state which is overrun by Ku Kluxers and American Legionaries.

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What does that lunatic want?" said Sch—, repulsing him with his foot.

The guard seized Emile by the collar, raised him from the earth and dragged him across several fields. Once at their lodgings, he labored him with blows.

"That will teach you to trouble the digestion of our employer."

Destouches submitted passively, like a dejected steer; but sometimes even cattle become enraged.

"I have labored, I have suffered that the other might enjoy, I have endured everything; at the end of my strength I have wept, I have implored, and I have been beaten. Death is near at hand. Come! take courage, there is nothing to lose."

Industrial Notes

By JOHN WILLIAMSON.

From New York City comes the news that they have organized their first shop unit (nucleus). It has been established in one of the many millinery shops in New York that turn out thousands of hats per year for the department store trade. We are sure the New York comrades will not stop here but will continue in their efforts to further the work of the National Industrial Committee. In fact we have heard that one girl comrade sells fifty Young Workers in the shop where she works. The New York comrades should not allow this chance to pass by without taking immediate steps to crystallize this sentiment.

Let us hear the experiences of the comrades in their successful work.

In Monessen, Pa., the members have divided their entire territorial branch into school and shop units.

We hope the comrades will help us all by telling in this section next issue the advantages of the change.

Minneapolis has good prospects of organizing a nucleus soon, the members only being afraid to take the initial steps. The recent Twin City convention elected a committee to handle this work exclusively and bid them carry on the work in accordance with national decisions.

The national convention of the U. M. W. of A. is now in session and the YWL succeeded in having at least five of their members from various parts of the country sent as delegates representing their local unions. This is the kind of union activity to carry on. We must establish ourselves and gain the confidence of the rank and file of the union members. At every union convention we should attempt to be represented and carry on the militant struggle as well as further the propaganda in favor of organizing the young workers of America.

It is now past the time limit set for all branch industrial registration to be in the national office.

Sorry to say the members have not responded as they should have. While we have received returns from approximately thirty per cent. of our branches, this is a poor showing for a Young Communist organization.

In the great majority of cases the large cities are making the poorest showing.

To date no returns on industrial registration have been received from such large industrial cities as New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Bridgeport, Newark, Pittsburgh or Detroit. This must be remedied immediately and the comrades in these cities should see to it that their industrial registration is compiled and forwarded immediately to the national office.

On a national scale the industrial work of the League is improving and the comrades are showing that they are realizing more and more the importance of this fundamental activity.

To work, comrades, and build a mass organization based on the militant industrial young workers.

ON THE JOB

Michigan Beet Fields Slavery Told by Worker.

Detroit, Mich.

Dear Comrades:

I think it is my duty to write you what experience I have had in the sugar fields in Michigan, for I was out there in 1920 during the industrial crisis. Being out of work for 9 months, I applied for work. Now, they do not take Americans for that kind of work knowing that they will not stick it out; so I told them that we came from Hungary a few years ago and were used to work. So I landed the job for \$23 an acre, never having seen a sugar beet before. They told me that for every family I would get they would pay me \$1 and they told me the reasons why they wanted the foreigners because of their big families. They said that while the father has to work the wife and children could help him out.

Being a member of the Y. P. S. L.

then, I tried to get as much information as possible. One German family told me that they had not enough money to get back to the city and so the smallest children had to go out and work in the fields. There was no way out of it, for the father could not earn enough money and the children had to help out. It is a joke to think an investigation was necessary. Former Governor Sleeper, I think, could give them all the information that was necessary. The real reason why they do not abolish child slavery is because if the Michigan Sugar Beet Company was forced to pay these families an American living wage, they might go bankrupt.

Sometimes, in the fields, you would find a family of three or four living in a small shack and when it rained they would get a shower bath. I have seen places where the farmers clean out their chicken coops and put families in there. When the families come out there, they are usually broke and they are given credit by the beet company; when they get their pay checks they have to repay their debts which leaves them very little to buy the necessities of life.

If you want to make a living out here you must start out at four o'clock till sun down, working

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NICOLAI LENIN

The untimely death of our comrade and leader, Nicolai Lenin, comes as the greatest shock that the working class of the world has had for decades. His death is the greatest loss to working class revolutionary leadership since the death of Karl Marx whose most brilliant disciple he was.

As Lenin, the man, he had qualities which were respected and admired universally, but it is as Lenin the revolutionary leader and the work he carried on so steadfastly that we mourn his loss. As the spirit who translated Marxism into Leninism, revolutionary theory into revolutionary action, as the clearest thinker in the international movement his loss is irreparable. Great as was his need to the Russian working class and their revolution, his keen, analytic mind and uncompromising integrity makes his death an even greater loss to the movement for emancipation all over the world.

Lenin's whole life and all his energies and works were devoted to the movement for freeing the working class from the chains of capitalism. It was he who forged the mighty, unconquerable weapon of the Russian workers, the Russian Communist Party. He stood up against all odds for revolution when it was a matter of many years. When the moment came for the workers to strike, it was Lenin who led them in the struggle. As premier of the first workers' republic, he guided the destinies of the nation in the face of attacks from all sides, and brought the Soviet Republic to its present unconquerable power.

And before the revolution, he led the fight against the traitors who sold out the working class on the eve of the world slaughter. His teachings and ideas led to the concentration of the divided left wing forces in the international working class movement, to the formation of the powerful Communist International which today strikes the fear of the workers in the heart of the masters in every corner of the world. When there was strife and wrangling within the workers' movement in any part of the world, Lenin came forth with judicial council and there was unity. He was wise with the learning of the rising proletariat. He knew capitalism better than its supporters and his Marxist knowledge coupled with his strong revolutionary will enabled him to guide the class conscious workers along the road to power.

Almost to the end he took an active part in the ruling of Russia. In spite of his malady and the assassin's bullet in his body, his indomitable energy kept him alive and interested to the last in the Revolution.

Beside him, the puppets of capitalism are miserably insignificant. When his contemporaries, Wilson, Harding, Coolidge, Lloyd George, MacDonald, Poincaré, Millerand, and the host of other representatives of the dying order, are completely forgotten or remembered only by their evil deeds, he will stand out as the spirit of the new day, as the greatest figure of his time.

We mourn the death of comrade Lenin. But his work lives on forever. The he has died his work stands as the glorious commemoration and tribute to his life. The Communist International will continue along the path which he indicated. The working class of the world will follow the lead of those whom Lenin was a part—and a leader.

Could Lenin have a word to say now, he would plead for no memorials. We have only one to give to him: to continue, to carry on where he left off. The road is easier to travel because Lenin was a pathfinder and a prophet. Victory lies nearer because Lenin fought the first battles. Our determination and courage are greater because Lenin led the way.

Lenin is dead, but the march of the workers goes forward.

Lenin is dead, but the revolution of the workers is the order of the day.

Lenin is dead, but our hearts are firmer and our arms are stronger for the struggle against the enemy.

To the spirit of Lenin we pledge ourselves to go forward with the work of the international proletarian revolution, the rule of the workers.

LONG LIVE THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL! LONG LIVE THE WORLD REVOLUTION OF THE WORKERS!

FOREVER LIVES THE MEMORY AND SPIRIT OF NICOLAI LENIN, LEADER OF THE WORLD REVOLUTION!

When a Rebel's Blood Boils

Additional and astounding details to the story printed in the last issue of The Young Worker by a New York correspondent have just come to hand. The stomach-turning story of the horrid exploitation of children in New York which was brought to light by the New York Welfare Commission was not half told in our earlier correspondence.

Fifteen thousand houses were visited by the investigators and the cases show a state of affairs which would have Simon Legree turn red with shame or green with envy. In some of the families the adults ate for varied reasons unable to go out of their homes for work and as a result they take the work home. In such families everyone, from the grandmother to the babes, works. And when we say babes we mean it. Infants of 18 months were found working, doing such jobs as stringing coral so long as they helped increase the family income which is continually hovering about the starvation point. A third of the kiddies are under ten years of age, the rest of them under fourteen and a number of them have not yet reached the age of four. Those who go to school rush home at lunch time, and put in a few hurried minutes at the work which they later continue into the small hours of the night.

A representative of the Brooks Brothers firm admitted at the hearings of the commission that their goods are turned into clothing by just such labor. Another gentleman from the Julius Keyser Company declared that all the delicate fineries of milady are finished in these slave pens; garments which sell for \$49 cost \$2 to make up! Gloves, handkerchiefs, hosiery, toys, dolls, artificial flowers, powder puffs and what not are turned out by these children who live in this horrible state of slavery.

Sometimes we are accused of being unnecessarily brutal in our language, of being vicious in our attacks, and hasty in our accusations. But when we are confronted with a situation like this and the numerous similar ones all over this glorious land of the slave, there are no words in the language strong enough, no attack sufficiently expressive and no condemnation powerful enough to give form to our feelings on this matter, to express our disgust and hatred towards this cursed and eternally damned system and its devotees and high priests, its beneficiaries and apologists. All the blood of the masters that has been shed by the uprisings of the oppressed classes all thru the course of history is as nothing to us by the side of the workers' blood and flesh and bone that have been torn and sucked by the vile vampires who ride their backs in bloody splendor.

Each day, as another patch is torn from the hideous body of capitalism, our loathing for this despicable crew increases. We shall not weep or tear our hair. We shall continue to organize our mighty strength for the day when the last of the dirty gang of our masters is burned beneath the dung heap of their own crimes.

Our Own Bi-Weekly Horror Story.

SAN FRANCISCO.—General Apollo Levantouyev, former brigade commander in the czar's army is now commander of the mop and broom squad of the Emporium department store. Oh, Apollo!

Join the Young Workers League and OWN THE World!

The Labor Party Can't Wait

The proposal made by William Mahoney that the St. Paul conference to organize a united farmer-labor party of the United States be put over until after the nominating conventions of the Democratic and Republican conventions is detrimental to the best interests of the working masses of this country on the political field.

To delay the convention in order to suit the convenience of old party politicians who do not find themselves in a position to break away from control until after the old party conventions have adopted their candidates and platforms would amount to flinging in the teeth of the workers and farmers all the hopes and confidence they have placed in the May 30th convention which has as its aim the formation of a national party of labor and farmers, the adoption of a political program and the nomination of candidates for the presidency and the vice-presidency. It means a surrender to the middle-class political spokesmen in the old capitalist parties who are afraid to throw their lot in with the organized producers and still hope to make a compromising deal with the controlling forces in the Democratic and Republican parties, the big business and financial men.

The farmer-labor party that must come out of the St. Paul conference should have nothing to do with the political adventurers who hang around the fringes of the corrupt old parties. It should not make any compromises and deals with middle-class principles and desires, which would delay the development of a distinct class party for some time. The united farmer-labor party must come out with a definite class program, suitable and acceptable to the needs of the huge masses of exploited workers and farmers, not a shilly-shally platform of rehashed platitudes.

The detaching of the working masses from the ideology of the old parties is an achievement that would make the new party from the start. The adoption of a class program would insure its integrity and life. And the radical and revolutionary elements that are participating in the new party, and which are the driving force behind its development, will see to it that its class nature is maintained and emphasized.

There must not be any delays in the organization of the farmer-labor party. The farmer-labor party is the crystallization of the hopes of the oppressed workers and farmers. It is the beginning of the first mass attempt on the political field to better their conditions. While it is not a communist party, we, the organized communists of this country, support it and will continue to support it as a progressive step in line with our policies and tactics. An organized farmer-labor group in the legislature of this country will fight against the organization of military preparations which are going on full blast in the congress and the state legislatures. The young workers of this country who are the first victims of any imperialist, militarist venture are particularly interested in this phase of the policy of the farmer-labor party. This together with the opposition to child labor will be the particular youth aspects of the party. Besides, this young workers, as part of the great mass of the workers, have a vital interest in its formation.

Any attempt at the putting off of this imperative step can receive nothing but opposition from the labor and farmer forces which have been fighting for its accomplishment.

It is our fervent hope that the organized workers and farmers who stand for a genuine class party will so voice their opinions that Mr. Mahoney, who has been temporarily misled by capitalist politicians, will come to see the correctness of their stand.

The Bloody Toll of Capitalism

Forty workers were killed by an explosion in the Standard Oil Company's Corn Products Refining plant at Pekin, Ill.

Nearly 275 miners barely escaped death from a burning mine near New Goshen, Indiana when a trolley wire was short circuited.

John Burt was found dead after six hours of fighting fire damp in which 20 miners were overcome in an attempt to rescue Burt.

In Johnston City, Ill., 32 workers' corpses lie in the morgue, dead from an explosion which took place in the mine. Six more are believed to have perished.

In Shanktown, Pa., 49 more lives of as many workers are given up to a mysterious gas explosion which occurred in the mine.

All these terrible incidents occurred in less than month. All these disasters were preventable. Not one of these deaths was unavoidable. All that was necessary to prevent them was the ordinary mechanical safety devices and precautions which exist in almost every other country in the world. In Great Britain, where the miners have a strong union control over the industry, only one-third as many miners are killed each year as in the United States. Here, however, the infernal greed of the capitalist swine is so fierce that they fight furiously against the most elementary enforcement of adequate safety measures.

This complete disregard of the lives and health of the workers is another damning nail in the head of the capitalist system. A social system which is ruled with such a total disregard for the overwhelming mass of its people does not deserve to exist and cannot maintain itself for long in the face of the rising rebelliousness of those whom it crushes.

The British Labor Ministry

No sooner did Ramsay MacDonald kiss the hand of King George and declare his fealty to the British Empire, after having been called upon to form a cabinet at the fall of the Baldwin ministry, than he was faced with a critical test of his prime ministerial powers. The Labor Party premier finds himself with a huge railway strike on his hands. And it is typical of what the Labor Party cabinet will be in the future that it is not doing anything about the present strike in Great Britain.

MacDonald is setting up a commission or some sort of affair for the postponement of definite action, but he fears to take a determined stand. A stand against the strikers would immediately influence a large portion of labor support away from the Party; a stand against the railway lords would get him in bad with the Liberals, by whose votes he was put into office. What is the poor fellow to do?

Nothing better can be expected of the Labor Party regime in England. The ministry has done one good thing in recognizing Soviet Russia, and appointing an ambassador. True enough. But at the same time, MacDonald is a strong advocate of the League of Nations, which is nothing but a mask for the imperialist designs of Great Britain, and a discussion house where the division of the international spoils between her and France takes place. The Labor Party cabinet is made up of the pinkest—and the yellowest—collection of "socialists" that ever ruled in the name of the workers. We have Lords and Admirals and Generals and Colonels and all sorts of respectable persons in it and there need be no fear on anyone's part that the Labor Party government will do anything radically different from those that have gone before it.

Nevertheless, the advent of the Labor Party to power is a step forward which American labor might well emulate. It gives the left wing forces within the British labor movement an opportunity to prove conclusively that the socialists have no real solution for the ills of the working class and that the only road towards emancipation lies thru a proletarian revolution by the working class itself. The communists are gaining in influence every day and the leaders are more and more obliged to turn their attention to the "red menace" which will soon threaten seriously their power.

In the United States, there is not yet a labor party of national character that has anywhere near the strength of its British cousin. All the more reason for the workers of America forming one, which will thus give them a chance to express themselves definitely on the political field and once and forever divorce them from the similar chains of the Democratic and Republican parties. In such a Labor Party, which must be a united front organization of all producers' political and economic units in this country, it is the duty of the communists in the Workers Party and the Young Workers League to propagate continually for the revolutionary principles for which we stand and fight.

The labor party which will be formed in this country must not be permitted to degenerate into the conglomeration of liberals, labor bureaucrats, guild socialists, dilettantes and the general pot pourri which today composes the British Labor Party, and it is our duty to see that it doesn't.

"Without a quiver, a member of the capitalistic group will run tens of thousands of pitiful child laborers through his life-destroying cotton factories, and weep maudlin and constitutional tears over one scab hit in the back with a brick. He will drive a compulsory free contract with an unorganized laborer, on the basis of a starvation wage, saying, 'Take it or leave it,' knowing that to leave it means to die of hunger and the next breath, when the organizer entices that laborer into a union, will storm patriotically about theinalienable right of all men to work."

JUNIOR NEWS

The junior members of the Young Workers League are today conducting a campaign for the relief of the starving children in Germany. Each junior group should elect a committee of the children for this purpose. The children's relief committee can work out plans for the collecting of money at all workers' meetings, at parent's evening affairs, at dramatic performances, at special affairs arranged by the juniors, etc.

The junior groups should be represented in the local conferences of the Friends of Soviet Russia and Workers Germany so that they can work in close cooperation with and under the guidance of that body.

Fire Trap Schools.

The Daily Worker is conducting a campaign of exposing all the fire trap schools in Chicago. The junior groups throughout the country should get into this campaign. This can be done very easily. See to it that all the public schools attended by the members of your junior group has at least one young comrade investigating the fire hazards in that particular school. Send in your reports to the National Junior Section. The expose of the fire hazards and the general rotten conditions in the public schools of this land should be coupled with an expose of the nationalist and religious dope peddled by our capitalist institutions of learning.

Have You a Little Text Book in Your Home?

Junior leaders are requested to push the book collection drive being conducted by the Young Communist International. Surely the members of your group have some old school text books at home, such as histories and readers used by children between 10 and 14 years of age, which are not in use. Send them in at once to the National Junior Section.

The United Front of Parents and Offsprings.

The junior section is conducting a campaign to get the support of the parents for the junior groups. Each group has been requested to call a conference of the parents of the junior members. At these meetings, the children can arrange little programs, small plays, recitations, speeches by the Juniors, etc. The life and work of the children in the junior groups should be discussed at these meetings and acted upon in an advisory capacity by the parents. The conferences should not be coordinated on a city scale. They should not maintain dictatorial powers over the junior groups.

How Is the Fight in the School Being Conducted?

The outstanding feature of the junior groups is that they are real, live organizations of struggle. Every time that your junior group does something in the public schools, whether it is the questioning of the teachers, the individual agitation of rotten conditions, school nuclei activities, etc., it should be written down in detail and sent in to the national office. These incidents make live, snappy news for the Young Comrades.

Spanish Reaction Sentences
5 Leading Young Communists

(Special Foreign Correspondence
of "The Young Worker")

MADRID.—The trial of the five leading members of the executive committee of the Young Communist League of Spain, accused of sedition, has just ended here with their being sentenced to a year of hard labor.

They had published a manifesto, in June 1922, against the imperialist adventure of Spain which had involved it in a war with Morocco. For this the five comrades were arrested and accused of a sedition act. The public prosecutor recommended a sentence of four years of hard labor. The counsel of the defendants, however, argued that the manifesto had not been addressed to the army and could not therefore be sedition. Seeing the logic of this argument, the council of war dropped this charge, but sentenced the five young communists to one year of hard labor on the charge of insulting the army, although this charge was not included by the prosecution.

The removal of the comrades from active work is a serious blow to the movement in Spain, which is now undergoing fearsome persecution at the hands of the fascist government of Primo de Rivera.

Reactionaries Propose Aid to Boy Scouts in "Americanizing" Youth (Federated Press)

LOS ANGELES.—Not satisfied with the regular work of the schools in Americanizing the youth of this city, 3,500 "representative" citizens of Los Angeles have organized for this purpose particularly, according to public announcement of the Thirty-five Hundred club. A fund of \$35,000 is to be raised by a membership fee of \$10 annually. Most of the fund is already raised, it is reported.

The club proposes to aid Boy Scout and kindred organizations. There is crying need for this, according to club spokesmen. It has been estimated that there are 68,000 boys in Los Angeles and the 3,500 representative citizens will reach all of them "either directly or indirectly" with an "understanding of American principles and ideals."

"PUCHINA"
is the name of a Russian drama in 4 acts by Ostrowsky, which will be presented by the Russian Workers and Peasants Theatre Sunday, Feb. 10th, at 7:30 P. M., at the Soviet School, 1902 W. Division St. Arranged by the Society for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia.

IMPROBABLY

A policeman, married seventeen years to two women, is in jail.

A railroad man it was also revealed, having two wives for twenty-four years is now dead.

Two good arguments against dual unionism.

For Walt Carman, Improbabilist:—To Y. W. L. Branches.

Try this at your branch meetings to the tune of the popular war-time song, "Homeward Bound." We are sure it will make good improbabily for the bosses:

Soviet-bound! Around the world that welcome sound

That will set the bosses quaking.

It is the sound of workers waking

It may seem far away

But we will live to see the day—

The day when workers—farmers in every land

Are the ones to issue every command!

We are Soviet-bound!